

corrupt counsallouris, may be convertit and alter to the direct contrair. . . ."

Mary, thereafter, rather irrelevantly tackled him on his intermeddling with her matrimonial affairs. This was evidently the sore point, and the secret motive of her suit against the reformer; and Knox, in order to exonerate himself from the implication of overbearing rudeness, treated his judges to a recapitulation of the scene at Holyrood. He was informed, in conclusion, that he might return to his house in the meantime. With a parting fling at^c the counsell of flatteraris," he withdrew, and, to the queen's infinite vexation, the lords unanimously voted that he had been guilty of no offence against the law. "That nycht," adds Knox, somewhat maliciously, "was nether dansing nor fyddilling in the courte."

Assuming the danger of a Catholic restoration, sooner or later, and the necessity incumbent on the Protestants of self-defence—and in the circumstances not only of Scotland, but of Western Europe, this was patent enough—Knox's argument is both skilful and forcible. We must remember that he was in the position of the man who occupies a certain point of the battlefield which he must hold at all hazards. He certainly does not fail in point of strategy. In reminding Maitland, to whom he gives some sharp thrusts, and his fellow privy councillors, that they had not failed to convene the lieges when it suited them, he dexterously insinuated that in condemning him they would be condemning themselves. In forewarning his brethren to be on their guard against persecution, he could convincingly appeal to the cruelty and tyranny of which his judges had been witnesses, and which had done so many to death for conscience' sake. As to treason acts, he could honestly say that he had only done his duty in lifting up his testimony against practices which were as illegal as the Parliament of 1560 could make them. To appeal to an Act of Parliament against a meeting in defence of Protestantism seemed, he might aptly retort, a strange proceeding in a Protestant State. The spirit of the argument, apart from the theological vehemence with which he overlaid it, was altogether admirable. He at least will not hesitate to protest publicly, even if it displeases the queen, against what he deems dangerous to Kirk and commonwealth. He will